

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /119 W

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R 150326Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7901

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8184

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TH

SUBJ: CHINA-THAILAND

SUMMARY: IN APPARENT CONSIDERATION OF CLOSER PRC-THAI DIALOGUE AND VISIT TO PEKING OF THAI BADMINTON TEAM, PRC MEDIA HAVE DRASTICALLY SCALED DOWN COVERAGE OF THAI INSURGENCY. THIS CONTRASTS WITH HANOI'S PROPAGANDA ON THIS SUBJECT. END SUMMARY

1. PEKING MEDIA HAVE IGNORED THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY (AUGUST 8) OF THE THAI PEOPLE'S "ARMED STRUGGLE." INSTEAD THERE WAS AN NCNA REPORT ON AUGUST 8 OF A BANQUET FOR THE VISITING THAI BADMINTON TEAM AND SPEECHES ON THE OCCASION EXTOLLING TRADITIONAL SINO-THAI FRIENDSHIP. ON AUGUST 13 VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AND VICE MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG RECEIVED THE LEADERS OF THE DELEGATION INCLUDING RTG OFFICIALS. LAST YEAR, WHILE SANITIZING
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THE ARTICLES TO MAKE THEM LESS ABUSIVE OF THE RTG, NCNA HAD CARRIED

A VPT BROADCAST ON THE ANNIVERSARY AND HAD ORIGINATED ITS OWN PIECE ENTITLED "EXCELLENT REVOLUTION SITUATION IN THE THAI PEOPLE'S ARMED STRUGGLE."

2. ALSO NOTABLE IS PEKING'S CONTINUED FAILURE TO PICK UP ATTACKS BY THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND ON THE USE OF THAI BASES IN THE CAMBODIA BOMBING. AGAIN THIS CONTRASTS WITH SEVERAL NCNA PIECES AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR. SINCE APRIL NCNA REPLAYS OF VPT BROADCASTS HAVE FALLEN OFF SHARPLY AND THERE HAVE BEEN NONE FOR THE PAST MONTH OR MORE.

3. THE HANOI DAILY NHAN DAN, HOWEVER, HAILED THIS YEAR'S ANNIVERSARY OF THE THAI STRUGGLE, AND CONDEMNED THE "THANOM-PRAPHAT JUNTA" FOR CONTINUING TO "TAIL AFTER THE US IMPERIALISTS" AND TO SELL OUT THE SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THAILAND. THE ARTICLE AS EXCERPTED BY VNA NOTED THAT THE THAI STRUGGLE WAS UNDER THE "LEADERSHIP OF THE THAI COMMUNIST PARTY" BUT IT ALSO REFERRED AT LEAST TWICE TO THE "THAI PEOPLE'S FRONT," AND APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE THAI PATRIOTIC FRONT, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH FELL OUT OF FAVOR WITH PEKING IN THE LATE SIXTIES BUT WHICH WAS STILL HAILED IN HANOI MEDIA LAST YEAR.

4. ANOTHER SUGGESTION OF A DIFFERENT OUTLOOK FROM PEKING ON THE THAI INSURGENCY WAS NHAN DAN'S STATEMENT THAT "OF LATE" THE STRUGGLE IN THAILAND HAS CENTERED ON THE DEMAND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS AND THE "ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE DRV." PEKING MEDIA HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE OBJECTIVE OF WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FOR SOME TIME AND HAVE NOT REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR RTG-DRV DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PEKING IN THE PAST HAS REPORTED VPT DEMANDS THAT THE RTG RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CHINA. THE VPT, OF COURSE, TAKES AN ANTI-SOVIET POSITION AND IS NOT QUOTED BY HANOI.
DEAN

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